

Madison Soil and Water Conservation District

Fact Sheet

General Information: The Madison Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1948, primarily to help farmers modernize irrigation systems, level land, control the spread of noxious weeds, and improve the quality and quantity of forage for their cattle. Strip cropping on dryland farms has gradually been replaced with terraces and debris basins and the District also promotes dryland conservation practices.

Mission, Vision or Function:

Our mission is to make technical, financial and educational resources available and coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

The vision of the district is to provide landowners and users with a legal mechanism whereby they might cooperate with one another and with state, local and federal agencies in establishing sound soil and water conservation measures within the district. Also, to encourage each landowner to put all land and water resources to the most beneficial use and to treat each acre in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement.

FY 2015 Accomplishments:

- The District received a Western SARE grant that enables the District to collect soil health data and prepare reports on findings.
- The Madison County Soil Health Initiative is a project aimed at assisting farmers to improve their soil health through such practices and cover crops, no-till or minimal-till practices, variable rate irrigation and variable rate fertilizing.
- The District conducts an annual conservation tour to educate landowners and legislators concerning conservation practices that are applied and practiced in Madison County.

- Sponsored a local youngster to attend Natural Resource Camp in Ketchum.



Marlon Winger, NRCS State Agronomist, explains the benefits of soil health practices at the 2014 tour

Future Plans and Projects:

- Continue to seek funding for Rexburg Bench Energy Savings Program that promote energy and water conservation.
- Continue to promote practices as No-Till, Cover Crop, Crop Rotations, Stream Bank Restoration and Wildlife Habitat Improvements.
- Conduct educational conservation tours and workshops for local working groups to gain insight from county leaders and residents to continue conservation plans of action.
- Seek funding from various nontraditional sources to retain the current office level.

FY 2015 District Funding:

State Funding	\$19,102
County Funding	\$6,000
Tree and Fabric Program	\$11,327
Western SARE Grant	\$3,204
Total	\$39,633

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